

Bolivia

Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons

The constitution prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, disability, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, or social status, but the government did not effectively enforce the law to protect all populations.

Societal Abuses, Discrimination, and Acts of Violence Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The constitution prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and citizens are allowed to change their name and gender on their official identity cards.

Societal discrimination against LGBT persons was common. Credible LGBT organizations reported police violence against and unwillingness to aid LGBT persons. An Emancipation Fund study found that 86 percent of LGBT people in its survey reported suffering physical or verbal abuse by police officers. The study also noted that of those surveyed, 85 percent reported discrimination in educational institutions, 78 percent in health facilities, and 65 percent at work; in addition, nearly half reported discrimination by family members. The transgender community remained particularly vulnerable to abuse and violence. Nearly a third of transgender persons surveyed reported that they had suffered physical abuse, and 75 percent reported having been threatened. LGBT organizations alleged that the October 6 killing of Luisa Duran, who self-identified as transgender, was hate motivated.

Advocacy organizations also reported that LGBT persons faced discrimination when participating in the political process (see section 3).